



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Recommendation to the Commission

**Party Submitting Recommendation:** Emergency Shelter Care Subcommittee

**Date of Submission:** 4/7/2021

**Type of Action Requested:**

Legislation     Administrative Rule or Policy     Resolution of Support or Endorsement     Professional/skills development

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):**

Child Health and Safety     Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth  
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse     Educational Outcomes

**Summary of Recommendation:**

Recruitment of Foster Parents to serve older youth and youth with high behavior needs.

**Background of Recommendation:**

***What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?***

There has not been a coordinated effort to utilize foster parents to serve higher need youth, and thus the current system of foster parents may not be aligned with that need. Diligent recruitment and transparency regarding the purpose of foster parents needs to happen to better align the foster care system with the needs of youth in Indiana. The unintended consequence of this current state is that youth often get served at a higher level of care (such as emergency shelter care, residential or secure detention) than was indicated for their needs.

***What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?***

The group surveyed probation departments and local DCS offices, who identified a need for additional foster parents to serve older youth and youth with higher needs. Additionally, members of the workgroup participated in other workgroups that were identifying these challenges and opportunities and brought that information to the work of this group.

***What disproportionality did the data reveal?***

There is an unmet need identified by probation departments and local DCS offices to serve older youth and youth involved in delinquency in a home-like environment. When foster homes are unavailable to serve these youth, the youth are placed in higher levels of care that are not indicated for their level of need.

***What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?***

Currently there is a lack of foster home availability to serve older youth and youth on probation, with the end result being that the youth are placed in higher levels of care that are not indicated for their level of need.

***What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?***

The recommendation is for intentional recruitment of foster families that will serve older youth and youth on probation. This will include assessing current barriers such as the LCPA administrative rate, foster parent reimbursement rate, and expectations for the entire foster care system. If implemented successfully, youth that are in need of placement in a home-like environment would be able to access that level of care rather than being placed in a higher level of care such as residential or secure detention.

***How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?***

If implemented successfully, youth that are in need of placement in a home-like environment would be able to access that level of care rather than being placed in a higher level of care such as residential or secure detention.

**Implementation:**

Who is responsible for implementing the recommendation?

Department of Child Services and Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPAs)

Has the recommendation been discussed with the implementer?

Yes       No

What is the recommended timeframe for the Commission to review implementation?

6 months     12 months     18 months     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/A

**If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/A

**If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.**